

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior claims, and listings of claims, in the application:

1. (previously presented) A method for realizing metering pulses in the Next Generation Network (NGN), comprising the steps of:

delivering from a media gateway controller to a media gateway a metering pulse information message;

selecting, by the media gateway according to an indication of the received metering pulse information message, one group of a number of metering pulses to be transmitted and a transmission interval between two adjacent metering pulses from numbers of metering pulses to be transmitted and transmission intervals between two adjacent metering pulses which are provided in the media gateway, wherein the numbers of the metering pulses to be transmitted and the transmission intervals between adjacent metering pulses are configured in a plurality of groups; and

transmitting the metering pulses periodically to a user equipment according to the obtained number of metering pulses to be transmitted and transmission interval between two adjacent metering pulses.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

terminating the transmission of the metering pulses when the media gateway detects an event or when the media gateway controller delivers an information message for interrupting the metering pulses.

3. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

transmitting the metering pulses according to the transmission interval and the number of the metering pulses to be transmitted as specified by a new metering pulse information message upon the reception of the new metering pulse information message.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein a ~~the~~ type of the metering pulses is an On/Off or a Brief signal, and

if the type of the metering pulses is the On/off signal, the transmission of the metering pulses is continued until being terminated; and

if the type of the metering pulses is the Brief signal, the transmission of the metering pulses comes to an end after ~~all the~~ a number of metering pulses equal to the selected number of metering pulses to be transmitted, ~~the number of which is as specified~~, have been transmitted.

5. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the user equipment is a digital telephone.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the metering pulses are defined ~~by as~~ following:

a the signal type of the metering pulses that is an On/Off signal, and a the pulse type and a the duration of the metering pulses that are provision variables;

a the parameter type of a Pulse Count of a first signal parameter is ~~an~~ a non-negative integer which ~~is the~~ defines a number of pulses and has a default value, ~~the possible values are non-negative integers and may be default~~; and

a the parameter type of a Pulse Interval of a second signal parameter is ~~an~~ a positive integer in defining a number of milliseconds that does not have a default value ~~millisecond, the possible values are positive integers and may not be default~~.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the metering pulse information message comprises a first and a second parameter ~~two parameters~~, and

a the value of the second parameter indicates a total duration of the metering pulses to be transmitted.

8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the transmission interval between two adjacent metering pulses is indicated by:

the value of the second parameter divided by a the value of the first parameter, in the case the first parameter is larger than zero; or

the value of the second parameter in the case the first parameter is zero or unspecified.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the metering pulse information message comprises a first and a second parameter ~~two parameters~~, and

a ~~the~~ value of the first parameter indicates the number of the metering pulses to be transmitted; and

a ~~the~~ value of the second parameter indicates ~~[[a]]~~ the transmission interval between ~~the~~ two adjacent metering pulses to be transmitted.

10-11 (canceled)

12. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the information message is a media Gateway Control Protocol message.